

# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

August 2000

Lassen Children & Families Commission Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Commission Members

Jim Chapman

Elizabeth Elam

Janice Irvin

Patsy Jimenez

David Jones

Barbara  
Malone

Cheryl Smith

Yvonne O'Neill

One  
Vacancy

## Welcome to the Lassen Children & Families Commission

### What is the Children and Families Commission?

Proposition 10 was enacted by the voters of California in the November 1998 election. It created the Children and Families First Act which took effect January 1, 1999. It increased the tax on cigarettes and tobacco products to raise new revenues for children from prenatal to age 5 and their families.



implement a comprehensive, collaborative, and integrated system of information and services to promote, support, and optimize early childhood development from the prenatal stage to five years of age. Proposition 10 created a new 7 member state commission and 5 to 9 member individual county commissions to oversee the expenditure of these funds.

The purpose of the act is to create and

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### Lassen Children and Families Commission

The Lassen County Children and Families Commission was created by the adoption of Ordinance Number 538, on January 12, 1999. The Lassen Children and Families Commission is comprised of nine members appointed by the Board of Supervisors representing the areas of county government, public health, public education, child care, parent education, preschool and early learning. Its purpose is to create and manage a collaborative comprehensive system of information, programs, services, and administrative support for enhancing early childhood development of children aged birth to five and their families. The Lassen Children and Families Commission has adopted the following vision and mission statements as the foundation of their strategic planning:

### Vision Statement

All Lassen County Children will thrive in supportive and loving environments, enter school healthy and ready to learn, and become productive, well-adjusted members of society.

### Mission Statement

The Lassen County Children and Families Commission is designed to provide, on a county-wide basis to all children prenatal to five years of age, a comprehensive, integrated system of early childhood development services. Through the integration of health care, quality child care, parent education and effective intervention programs for children and families, children and their parents and care givers will be provided with the tools necessary to foster secure, healthy and loving attachments.



LASSEN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, August 3, 2000

**Members Present:** Dave Jones, Betsy Elam, Cheryl Smith, Jan Irvin, Jim Chapman, Patsy Jimenez, Yvonne O'Neill  
**Members Absent:** Melanie Goddard, Barbara Malone  
**Visitors Present:** Janet Lasick, Pam Tupper, Tom Keeffer,  
**Staff to the Commission:** Laura Roberts

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President, Cheryl Smith at 1:40 p.m. in the Barry Creek Meeting Center, 1345 Paul Bunyan Road, Suite B, Susanville, California.
2. **Introductions:** All members of the Commission and visitors introduced themselves. Pam Tupper of the Shasta Consortium of Community Health Clinics was welcomed as a new visitor to the Commission.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Betsy Elam moved that the minutes of 6/1/2000 and 6/22/2000 be approved as submitted. Patsy Jimenez seconded the motion, and the Commission approved the minutes unanimously.
3. **Public Hearing on State Commission Audit:** A public hearing on the Annual Audit of the California and Families Commission was declared open. The document was reviewed with no additional comment or question. The public hearing was closed.
4. **Public Hearing on Local Audit for 98-99 Fiscal Year:** A public hearing on the local audit for 98-99 Fiscal Year was declared open. The brief two page report was reviewed with no additional comment or question. The public hearing was closed.
5. **Letter of Resignation of Melanie Goddard:** Melanie Goddard has moved to Woodland and has submitted a letter of resignation. Melanie was one of the original commission members and her letter was accepted with an expression of gratitude for her dedication to the Lassen Children and Families Commission. The County Clerk is to be contacted regarding recruitment of a new commission member. The Board of Supervisors will provide the same review and selection process.
6. **Statewide Conference of County Commissions Report:** Jan Irvin, Yvonne O'Neill, Cheryl Smith and Laura Roberts attended the Statewide Conference of County Commissions held in Davis on July 27 and 28, 2000. Many excellent break out sessions were attended by the attendees, many new people were met and a great deal of networking and information sharing was conducted. Many pamphlets, and other resources provided by the conference were shared and are available to others at 1345 Paul Bunyan Road, Suite B, Offices of Diversified Management and the Lassen Children and Families Commission.
7. **Dental Summit Update:** Laura reported that the Lassen Children and Families Commission has received a \$20,000 grant to cover the expenses associated with the Children's Dental Health Planning Summit. The State Commission and the Technical Support Center are assisting in locating a consultant to help with the summit. A tentative time line is to have the summit in late September. Laura added that Camp Ronald McDonald is the potential place of the event. Laura stated that the grant funds are to cover a four county collaborative summit covering the counties of Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, and Sierra. Lassen County is to be the lead county and will provide the fiscal management. A memorandum of understanding was prepared by the State Commission and circulated to each county for signing.
8. **Website Development:** The Web Site is being hosted by the California Children and Families Commission. The site will contain our Strategic Plan, Minutes, Agendas, and other information about Lassen Children and Families Commission activities. Progress regarding implementation of the Strategic Plan will be posted there also. The web site is under development.
9. **Insurance for Commission:** Errors and Omissions insurance was obtained for the Commission from Robert F. Driver Company through their Special Liability Insurance Program (SLIP).
10. **Other Business:**

**A. October 16, 2000 "Safe From the Start" Conference** is being held in Redding. This Conference is a one-day workshop on reducing children's exposure to violence. This workshop will offer tools and information to help communities reduce the number of children exposed to violence, and improve the health and well-being of children exposed to violence. It was suggested that the notice of this Conference be sent to each school in Lassen County.

**B. Advisory Committees from each geographical area of Lassen County** were suggested. From that discussion it was decided that the next commission meeting should be held in Bieber because the participation in the public forum was so great. The Commission stated that it would conduct its regular meetings occasionally in south county, west county, and in Susanville.

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## What is the Children and Families Commission?

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The State Commission is responsible for spending 20 percent of the monies and the County Commissions are responsible for the remaining 80 percent.

### **How much money does Lassen County receive?**

Lassen County will receive \$336,151 for fiscal year 1999-2000.

### **What can the money be spent on?**

The California children and Families Act states that funding is to be used to —

Create a comprehensive and integrated delivery system of information and services to promote early childhood development.

Fund existing community based programs or establish new ones that focus on parenting education and family support services.



### **Direct services would include:**

- Education on avoiding tobacco, drugs and alcohol during pregnancy
- Prenatal and postnatal maternal and infant nutrition services
- Immunizations
- Education on the importance of nurturing children
- Child care skills for parents and child care providers
- Domestic violence prevention and treatment
- Tobacco and substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Child development, health care and social services not provided by existing programs

“While we know that the development of a young child’s brain is a “work in progress” that takes years to complete, we also know that development in the early years is quite dramatic and can establish patterns for life-long learning.”

(<http://www.zerotothree.org/brainworks/parents.html>)

## Growing Up Healthy Birth—2 Months\*

### Dental Tips

- ♦ Put your baby to bed without a bottle. Instead, give your baby a soft toy, blanket, or clean pacifier at nap or bedtime.
- ♦ Wipe your baby's gums gently with a clean washcloth each day.
- ♦ Thumb and/or pacifier sucking is okay.
- ♦ If you give a pacifier, never tie it around your baby's neck. Do not dip pacifier in honey or anything sweet.

### Nutrition

- ♦ Breast milk is the best food for your baby. Mother should eat healthy foods and drink plenty of fluids.
- ♦ Feed your baby breast milk or formula with iron. Wait until 5-6 months old before giving any other foods.
- ♦ Hold your baby while breast or bottle feeding.
- ♦ Honey or corn syrup during the first year can make your baby very sick.

(\*CHDP Child Health and Disability Prevention Program Pub. 250)

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### Minutes of Meeting

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**C. Subpoena:** Laura stated that she had been served with a subpoena to produce a variety of records to the attorneys for the California Retail Tobacconists Association by August 18, 2000. Laura explained that each county commission in the State of California, as well as County Clerks, and some other groups, had received the same subpoena, and this lawsuit has been going on for over a year trying to upset the Prop 10 initiative. Documents will be provided as requested.

**D. Communication with other agencies:** The Commission would like to see us increase our communication with all agencies about what we are doing. A Newsletter was suggested and Yvonne volunteered to help with one. Laura will prepare a draft newsletter.

**11. Next Meeting Date, Time, and Tentative Agenda:**

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled to be held on September 7, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall in Bieber, California. Tentative topics for the agenda include child care, preschools, family resource centers, getting our strategic plan specific, updates, and fiscal report.

**12. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

## RESOURCES

CHDP Check-ups are available for well-baby care, well-child care, school entry, sports/camp physicals and teen check-ups.

Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) check-ups include vision tests, hearing tests, immunizations, growth & development, lab tests and health information.

Your child qualifies if they are on Medi-Cal (to age 21) or low to moderate income (to age 19).

Contact the Lassen County Public Health Department at 251-8183

## COMING EVENTS

**SAFE FROM THE START:**  
Reducing Children's Exposure to Violence  
Regional Forum

October 16—Redding, CA

For more information or to register, please see  
[www.safefromthestart.org](http://www.safefromthestart.org)